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May 19, 2022

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Regional Freedom of Information Officer
U.S. EPA, Region 3

(Submitted via FOIA ONLINE at
foiaonline.gov/foiaonline/action/public/request)

> Re: <u>Freedom of Information Act Request re December 8, 2020 explosion at Optima Belle facility in Belle, WV</u>

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. §552) (FOIA), I request all public records identified and related to the below:

1. All communications (written or electronic) between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") and any third party concerning the investigation and/or activities regarding the Explosion at the Optima Belle facility in Belle, WV on December 8, 2020. ("U.S. EPA" is defined as any of the U.S. EPA's officers, employees, representatives, agents, assigns, or subcontractors.

2. All communications (written or electronic) by and between U.S. EPA and any third party concerning the Explosion.

3. All internal communications (written or electronic) within U.S. EPA concerning the investigation and/or activities concerning the Explosion.

4. All internal communications (written or electronic) within U.S. EPA concerning Clearon Corp., Optima Belle, LLC, Chemours Company FC, LLC and The Chemours Company regarding the Explosion.

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5.   All documents, pictures and data relating to or concerning the investigation and/or activities conducted at Optima Belle facility.

6.   All communications (written or electronic) by and between U.S. EPA and any local, state, or federal government agency, including but not limited to any Chemical Safety Board regarding the Explosion.

7.   All documents, pictures and data showing any investigation and/or due diligence conducted to determine the cause of the Explosion.

8.   EPA's investigation file regarding the Explosion.

9.   Any and all inspectors' notes regarding the Explosion.

10.   Any and all measurements taken at the scene or at any other location of any materials or property that may have been involved in the Explosion

11.   Any and all photographs and Videotape(s) of the Explosion scene.

12.   Copies of all citations issued to any involved parties regarding the Explosion.

13.   Any and all witness statements regarding the Explosion.

14.   Any and all interview notes regarding the Explosion.

Such records include, but are not limited to, all relevant internal and external communications as well as all relevant hard copy and electronic communications. 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(6)(A)(i) requires the Department to respond within twenty business days after receipt of this request. We request that a written response to this request must be made within ten (10) days and that documents be produced by May 29, 2022. Should there be any cause for delay, please provide me with an explanation for the delay and the anticipated date when I can expect to receive these records. In the event this request is denied, please provide me with the reasons for the denial and the procedure for appeal.

Consistent with 5 U.S.C. §552(a)(4)(A)(ii), I understand the agency may require a reasonable fee associated with locating, copying, and transmitting these records. Standard electronic format where records are electronically maintained is preferred; therefore, I anticipate any fee will be minimal. Nevertheless, charges for photocopies are

authorized at this juncture in the amount of seven hundred fifty dollars ($750.00). If the U.S. EPA claims that responsive records do not exist, please provide a list of what files were searched. Thank you in advance for your anticipated responsiveness.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Tim J. Yianne

Tim J. Yianne of
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